रही है कि इस बारे में एक राष्ट्रीय नीति बननी चाहिए। लेकिन जो मूल्यों का सवाल है जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि समान मूल्य नीति की भी चर्चा हो, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि चीनी के मूल्य सम्पूर्ण देश में एक है 9.05 पैसे प्रति किलो।

*247[*The questioner (Shri Bhagaban Majhi) was absent. For answer vide col. .....infra*]

Incentives to Farmers for Promotion of Export of Grapes and Other Products

*248. DR. GOPALRAOVITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of air freight subsidy given for export of grapes and other products to farmers as an incentive to promote exports;

(b) the amount of subsidy given till date;

(c) if so, whether it is not going to the traders; and

(d) the other infrastructural facilities in the form of cold storages, container services and market support proposed to be given to floriculture, horticulture and export of vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMIAH): (a) to (c) Air Freight Subsidy Scheme in respect of export by air of selected floricultural, horticultural products and fresh vegetables was introduced on an experimental basis with effect from 19.9.93 to 31.3.94. Rs. 5.56 crores has been disbursed as subsidy for this period on export of grapes and other products. This scheme was not introduced during 1994-95. During 1995-96, Air Freight Subsidy Scheme was introduced with effect from 1.9.95 to 31.3.96 for certain selected floricultural, horticultural products and fresh vegetables. An amount of Rs. 5.64 crores (including Rs. 27.74 lakhs towards air freight subsidy for export of grapes) has been disbursed to the eligible exporters.

Air Freight Subsidy Scheme for export of selected floricultural, horticulture and fresh vegetables has been announced for the period from 1.9.96 to 31.3.97. Claims are being received for settlement.

This scheme has been extended to eligible exporters with the objective of off-setting the air freight disadvantage faced by them in the overseas markets.

(d) Some of the steps taken to promote the export of floriculture, horticulture products and fresh vegetables are:—

(i) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/producers Cooperative Organisations for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Grant of Financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(iv) Establishment of walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(v) Setting up of integrated cargo handling facilities for perishable products at New Delhi Airport;

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for elimination of fruit fly & improved acceptability of the product;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns, buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions;

(viii) Implementation of UNDP Project on Foriculture for improving productivity and production.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Madam, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. This is an important question which relates to

farmers. My question is about subsidy that is being given. It seems from the answer that this subsidy is given only to the exporters and the farmers are deprived of it. Madam, here is a Government which is farmer-friendly and is being led by the son of a farmer. Then why is it happening? The exporters are earning crores of rupees as profit, and, at the same time, they are getting subsidy. For example, the exporters of grapes are being given subsidy. I would like to know whether it is a fact or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question House is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disinvestment in IOC and VSNL

*241. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Disinvestment Commission to recommend the names of PSUs in which disinvestment should be made;

(b) if so, the details of the functions of this Commission;

(c) whether this Commission has recommend disinvestment of two blue chip PSUs viz., Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL);

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made; and

(e) if not, the reasons for which disinvestment in these PSUs has begun?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (A) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Commission have been notified in the Gazette on 23.8.1996. A copy is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Disinvestment of 5% equity in IOC and 7% of Government's equity in VSNL (5.64% of total equity) is proposed for the current year to raise resources as indicated in the budget for 1996-97. The process regarding selection of these companies had started prior to the establishment of the Commission and is continuing. Disinvestment from the 3rd tranche for 1996-97 would be done on the advice of the Disinvestment Commission.

COPY OF THE GAZETTE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

(Department of Public Enterprises)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 23rd August, 1996

No. 11013/3/96-Admn-In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, Government hereby constitutes a Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, initially for a period of three years.

2. The composition of the Commission will be as follows:—

1. Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, Full-time Chairman
2. Shri Dipankar Basu, Part-time Member
3. Shri M.R.R. Nair, Part-time Member
4. Dr. Suresh Tendulkar, Part-time Member
5. Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa, Part-time Member

The Commission will have a full-time Secretary who will be appointed separately.

3. The broad terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:—

(i) To draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group.

(ii) To determine the extent of disinvestment (total/partial indicat-